

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1095

By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Evelyn Rainwater on being named the First Lady of Loudon County 2006 by the Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those citizens who through their many endeavors, are a credit to their respective families and communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Evelyn Rainwater, who was recently named this year's First Lady of Loudon County by the Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi; and

WHEREAS, since 1961, the Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has been honoring women in Loudon County for their many contributions to their community, and Evelyn Rainwater is most certainly one such individual who is deserving of being honored as the 2006 First Lady of Loudon County; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this honor, Mrs. Rainwater will be presented with the First Lady cup at a luncheon on Saturday, May 6, 2006, at the First Baptist Church on Simpson Road in Lenoir City, where family, friends, members of Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter, and past First Ladies will share in her joy; and

WHEREAS, chosen for her devotion to her community, Evelyn Rainwater has been recognized as a visionary who recognizes a need and strives diligently to provide for that need; the title of First Lady goes to Mrs. Rainwater for her work with adult literacy, her church, Loudon County Health Improvement Council (LCHIC) and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rainwater was born and reared in Loudon County, where she has lived most of her life; she graduated from Lenoir City High School in 1950, and she feels privileged to have attended Tennessee Wesleyan College; and

WHEREAS, she and her husband, Buddy, met and dated in high school, and were working on wedding plans when Buddy was shipped to Okinawa after volunteering for the United States Air Force; their marriage was put on hold for eighteen months until Buddy's return, and they were married on March 15, 1955; and

WHEREAS, after spending many years as a stay-at-home mom, Evelyn Rainwater began her community service as Loudon County's first literacy coordinator. She started the program in 1979, recruiting many volunteers within the community, and watching many non-reading adults learn to read and earn their GEDs; the Lenoir City-Loudon County Adult Education Program continues today, though Mrs. Rainwater retired from that program eleven years ago; and

WHEREAS, her passion for literacy was also evidenced in more than ten years of volunteering at Highland Park School, where she read to a classroom weekly and provided tutoring to those students who were struggling with those skills; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rainwater's community involvement took another direction when she served on the Loudon County Health Improvement Council (LCHIC), for which she was a charter member, officer, and executive board member; LCHIC took on such projects as a school health clinic and bicycle helmet program; and

WHEREAS, she also served on the board of the Break the Cycle program, whose mission was to reduce the rate of teen pregnancies in Loudon County through education and prevention; the current program also includes a focus on awareness of alcohol and tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rainwater is a former member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Suburbia Woman's Club, which is involved in the planning of Suburbia's arts and crafts festival; she also organized the GFWC's Coytee Club, served in offices of former home demonstration clubs, and was a member of Christian Women's Club of Loudon County; and

WHEREAS, a devout and active member of First Baptist Church in Lenoir City, Mrs. Rainwater taught Sunday School for more than thirty-five years, served as a Vacation Bible

School leader and a member of the “front door visitation” team, and makes special visits to church members who are shut-ins, confined, or terminally ill; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Raintree is also involved with Operation Huggs, a ministry of First Baptist, and served as a counselor at First Baptist’s Judgment House and as a teacher during an AWANA program at the church; in addition, she helps to plan the Fabulous Fifties reunion, which takes place in July every year; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Evelyn Raintree is most appreciative of the love and companionship that she shares with her devoted and loving family, who all share her love of service, especially her husband, Buddy, the love of her life for fifty-one years; daughter, Susan Shoemaker; son, Michael Rainwater; and four grandchildren, Lindsey Shoemaker, 19, Lauren Shoemaker, 11, Kyle Rainwater, 3, and Emily Rainwater, two months; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rainwater is an extremely giving person who instinctively reaches out with compassion to people who have endured injury or suffering, and she epitomizes the ideal of the compassionate mother, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rainwater is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the “Volunteer State,” and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby pause to honor and congratulate Evelyn Rainwater, a woman of great integrity and commitment to serving others, on being selected as the 2006 First Lady of Loudon County and wish her the greatest success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.